

Dec-18-06 18:39

From-KILPATRICK STOCKTON LLP

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T-146 P.15/22 F-079

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached replacement sheets amend Figures 1-6 to include a "Prior Art" label.

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REMARKS

The Office Action indicated that Claims 1-10 were examined. This application is a US national phase application of PCT/JP2004/007756. The English language translation of the international application as filed included Claims 1-10, but a preliminary amendment that was filed at the time of entry into the national phase amended Claims 8-10 and added new Claims 11-13. The preliminary amendment amended Claims 8-10 to eliminate multiple dependencies so that Claims 8-10 only depend from Claim 1 and added Claims 11-13 which contain subject matter similar to that recited by Claims 8-10, but which depend from Claim 3.

The undersigned contacted the Examiner to discuss the discrepancy between the pending claims and the examined claims and the Examiner explained that original Claims 1-10 were examined instead of Claims 1-13. The Examiner indicated that the rejection of Claims 8-10 applied to Claims 11-13. The foregoing amendment amends Claims 1 and 6, cancels Claims 2-5, 7 and 11-13 and adds Claims 14-34 so that Claims 1, 6, and 8-34 are pending.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejected the claims as being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner alleged that the terms "normally on type FET" and "normally off type FET" recited by Claim 1 are unclear, that it is unclear how the control means turns on/off the normally on type FET, as recited in Claim 3 and that the control means recited by Claim 7 lacks clear antecedent basis.

The foregoing amendment clarifies that the terms "normally on type FET" and "normally off type FET" have their commonly accepted meanings. A normally on type FET is also known as a depletion type FET and passes a drain current under the zero state of a gate voltage. A normally off type FET is also known as an enhancement type FET and does

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not pass a drain current under the zero state of the gate voltage. The foregoing amendment also cancels Claims 3 and 7. In light of the amendment, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are definite.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that Claims 4-7 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and to include all of the limitations of the based claim and any intervening claims. The foregoing amendment amends independent Claim 1 to include the subject matter of Claims 3 and 4, adds independent Claim 14 which includes the subject matter of Claims 2-4, adds independent Claim 19 which includes the subject matter of Claims 1, 3 and 5, adds independent Claim 23 which includes the subject matter of Claims 2, 3 and 5, adds independent Claim 27 which includes the subject matter of Claims 1, 3 and 7, and adds independent Claim 31 which includes the subject matter of 2, 3 and 7, as well as additional independent claims.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings and required a "prior art" label on Figures 1-6. The attached replacement sheets include the required prior art label.

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CONCLUSION

The claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney of record at (404) 685-6799 if such contact will facilitate a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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